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Identical letters dated 1 April 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On Tuesday, 31 March 2015, terrorist groups carried out a barbaric attack against the village of Mab'ujah in the countryside of Salamiyah. In that attack, the terrorists committed a horrific massacre of the village's peaceful residents, killing more than 60 civilians, the majority of whom were children and women, and gravely injuring dozens of others. The dead had either had their throats cut or had been shot. The terrorist gangs also abducted some of the villagers after they had broken into the peaceful homes of the village and looted, ransacked and burned them.

This latest massacre, which was perpetrated in the peaceful village of Mab'ujah, is a continuation of the savage, systematic acts of terrorism that are being committed in Syria by armed terrorist groups. Certain States, in the service of their own narrow interests, insist on referring to those groups as the "moderate opposition". Those groups include such organizations as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, Army of Islam and the Islamic Front. Those States therefore intentionally ignore the crimes committed by these groups, which have made it their vocation to kill and slaughter the peaceful civilians of the Syrian Arab Republic and to mutilate their corpses. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that such acts of terrorism would not occur were it not for the ongoing, direct support that those terrorist groups, which espouse an exclusionary Wahhabist ideology, receive from countries that shamelessly call themselves the "friends of the Syrian people". Their friendship has caused Syrian civilians to be killed, slaughtered, burned, starved and deprived of water, electricity, food and shelter.

The massacres and the crimes against humanity committed by armed terrorist groups, the latest of which was the Mab'ujah massacre, makes it imperative for, indeed, incumbent on, peace-loving States to take punitive measures against those States that support and fund the indiscriminate terrorism that has been directed

against Syria and its people for more than four years. The international community is now called on to reaffirm its commitment to combat terrorism and extremist terrorist groups by cooperating and coordinating fully with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in the fight against this dangerous blight. It must also provide support to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which is today combating terrorism on behalf of all the peoples of the world, in order to defend humanity, justice, freedom and dignity, and keep at bay the evils of extremism, blind fanaticism and destructive, tyrannical ideology.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its resolve to combat terrorism in Syria and its determination to continue fulfilling its duty to defend the Syrian people and protect it from anything that might threaten its security and safety. It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn this criminal act. It also reiterates its call for the Council to shoulder its responsibility to counter terrorism and eliminate its root causes by enforcing implementation of its resolutions on counter-terrorism, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). The Council should furthermore take every forceful measure possible against those who violate the above-mentioned resolutions by continuing to arm, fund, shelter and train armed terrorist groups, including the regimes of Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, as well as France and certain other Western countries.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.